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DIRECTIVE TO NAVAL TASK FORCE COMMANDER, 59

WESTERN TASK FORCE '60

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**ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS**

*Allied Forces*

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13 October 1942

SUBJECT: Directive to Naval Task Force Commander, Western Task Force.

TO: Rear Admiral Henry K. Hewitt, U.S.N.

The Naval Task Force Commander, Western Task Force, will be responsible for the landing of the Assault Forces in the CASABLANCA area and for any subsequent Naval Coastal operations to assist in establishing our forces on the ATLANTIC seaboard of FRENCH MOROCCO.

2. Object of the Operations.

The object of the operations as a whole is to occupy FRENCH MOROCCO and ALGERIA with a view to the earliest possible subsequent occupation of TUNISIA and the establishment in FRENCH MOROCCO of a force which could move if necessary into SPANISH MOROCCO.

The Commander-in-Chief, Allied Force, will command all forces assigned to Operation TORCH, under the principle of unity of command.

3. Command Arrangements.

a. The Western Naval Task Force will pass to the command of the Commander-in-Chief, Allied Force, upon crossing the meridian of 40°W longitude. This command may be exercised either directly by the Commander-in-Chief or through the Naval Commander, Expeditionary Force. (Prior to that time these forces will remain under the command of the Commander-in-Chief, United States Atlantic Fleet, who will arrange their movements so that they will meet the schedule of the Commander-in-Chief, Allied Force).

b. The command of those units of the Western Task Force which are embarked in the Western Naval Task Force, will rest in the Commander, Western Naval Task Force, until such time as the Commanding General, Western Task Force has secured a lodgement on shore and states he is ready to assume command.

c. When the Commanding General, Western Task Force, assumes command on shore, the Naval forces designated to give further support to the occupation of FRENCH MOROCCO will pass to his control, acting through the Commander, Western Naval Task Force.

d. The United States Naval Forces assigned for the operation of ports and for naval local and sea frontier defenses - sea frontier forces, Western Task Force - will be under the command of the Commanding General of that Task Force, under the principle of unity of command.

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(Continued from page 1)

Directive to Naval Task Force Commander, Western Task Force. (Cont'd)

e. With reference to paragraphs c. and d. above, the Naval Commander Expeditionary Force acting under authority from the Allied Commander-in-Chief will deal direct with the Naval Commander, Western Task Force and subsequently with the Flag Officer CASABLANCA area on matters solely affecting the Navy and Shipping.

f. The military units carrying out the assault will be under the command of Major General G. S. Patton, Jr. The Naval Commander, Western Task Force will confer direct with the Commanding General, Western Task Force on matters affecting the planning and execution of the assault. Similarly, he will confer with this officer on matters concerning assistance to him by subsequent seaborne operations.

4. Convoy Arrangements.

a. The sailing and routing of convoys between the United States and NORTH AFRICA to meet the schedule of the Commander-in-Chief, Allied Force, will be controlled as follows:

- (1) By Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet, West of longitude 40°W.
- (2) By Admiralty between longitude 40°W and 10°W.
- (3) By Commander-in-Chief, Allied Force, East of longitude 10°W.

5. Movements Subsequent to the Assault.

a. The Commanding General, Western Task Force, will inform the Commander-in-Chief, Allied Force, and the Commander, Western Naval Task Force, when the naval forces are no longer required for close support of the military operations.

b. U.S. submarines will return to the UNITED KINGDOM, being routed by the Naval Commander, Expeditionary Force.

6. Administration.

The Commander-in-Chief, United States Atlantic Fleet, will exercise administrative command over the United States Naval Forces assigned to Commander-in-Chief, Allied Force.

7. Establishment of Ports.

The Senior Naval Officer, CASABLANCA area will be responsible for the undermentioned duties and will receive his orders from the Commander, Western Task Force:

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(In [REDACTED])

Directive to Naval Task Force Commander, Western Task Force, (Cont'd).

a. The establishment and working of CASABLANCA and any other ports which it may be decided to occupy.

b. The provision and maintenance of underwater defenses and the safety of the seaward approaches to the above ports.

c. The arrangements for arrival, departure, berthing and routing of all convoys using the ports. Close touch must be maintained with the British Naval Authorities concerned as regards routing of convoys.

8. Detailed Directive.

The basic naval directive will be issued to the Naval Commander, Western Task Force by the Commander-in-Chief, United States Atlantic Fleet. Subsequent orders will be issued as described in paragraph 4a.

9. Plans and Operation Orders.

The Naval Commander, Western Task Force will prepare plans and operation orders in accordance with this general directive and with the detailed directive referred to in paragraph 7 above. Three copies of all such plans and orders will be forwarded to the Commander-in-Chief, Allied Force at the first possible moment.

10. Policy in dealing with French Forces.

The policy as regards offensive action against French Forces is covered in Operation Memorandum Number 15, 9 October 1942.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER,  
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army,  
Commander-in-Chief.

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